



**City of Tucson  
Office of the City Clerk  
2021 Candidate Nomination Procedures and  
Signature Requirements**

Presently there are three (3) qualified political parties (Democratic, Republican or Libertarian) eligible to participate in the 2021 City of Tucson Primary Election. A qualified candidate may seek nomination by one of these political parties through the nomination petition process or as a write-in candidate in the Primary Election.

**Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 16-311(J) and 16-312(D), the City Clerk shall not accept the nomination paper of a candidate if the person is liable for an aggregation of \$1,000 or more in fines, penalties, late fees or administrative or civil judgments, including any interest or costs, in any combination, that have not been fully satisfied at the time of the attempted filing of the nomination paper and the liability arose from failure to comply with or enforcement of A.R.S. Title 16 Chapter 6.**

**METHODS OF NOMINATION**

***Statement of Interest***

Aspiring candidates must submit a Statement of Interest to the City Clerk **prior** to collecting nomination petition signatures. The Statement of Interest includes the candidate's name, party affiliation, and office sought. [A.R.S. § 16-311(H)] Petition signatures collected prior to submission of the Statement of Interest are invalid and subject to challenge pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-351. **NOTE: this law went into effect on August 27, 2019.**

***1. Name Printed on Primary Election Ballot***

**File: Saturday, March 6 through 5 p.m. Monday, April 5, 2021** [A.R.S. § 16-311(A)]

File the following with the City Clerk:

- Nomination Paper and Declaration of Qualification and Eligibility [A.R.S. § 16-311(A)(D)]
- Financial Disclosure Statement [A.R.S. § 16-311(I)]
- Nomination Petitions [A.R.S. § 16-314(A)]

NOTE: The City Clerk will not accept partial filings, late filings, or supplements to petitions already filed.

***Signature Requirements***

The number of valid signatures on the petition must be equal to at least five percent (5%), but not more than ten percent (10%) of the votes cast by the party in the ward in the 2017 General Election. [A.R.S. § 16-322(A)(9); Tucson Code § 12-65(B)]

	DEMOCRATIC PARTY		REPUBLICAN PARTY		LIBERTARIAN PARTY	
	MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.
<b>WARD 3</b>	334	667	134	267	5	8
<b>WARD 5</b>	232	463	63	125	3	4
<b>WARD 6</b>	474	946	163	325	6	10

Successful candidates in the Primary Election will have their names placed on the General Election ballot.

## ***2. Write-in Candidates for Primary Election***

An individual who is a member of a qualified party (Democratic, Republican or Libertarian) may become a write-in candidate in the Primary Election unless the individual filed a nomination petition for the August 3 Primary Election and failed to provide a sufficient number of valid petition signatures. [A.R.S. § 16-312(F)(3)]

***Filing deadline for Primary Election: 5 p.m. June 24, 2021*** [A.R.S. § 16-312(B)]

File the following with the City Clerk:

- Nomination Paper, signed by the candidate, giving the person’s actual residence address or description of place of residence and post office address, age, length of residence in the state, city, ward (if applicable), and date of birth; [A.R.S. § 16-312 (A)]
- Declaration; [A.R.S. § 16-311 (D)]
- Financial Disclosure Statement [A.R.S. § 16-312(C)]

Note: Pursuant to State Law, a write-in candidate in the Primary Election must get the number of votes equal to the minimum number of signatures required on nomination petitions for the same office in order to be placed on the General Election ballot. [A.R.S. § 16-645(E)]

## ***3. Nomination Other Than by Primary for Placement on General Election Ballot***

A candidate who is not a member of a qualified political party may seek election through this method. This process shall *not* be used to place on the general election ballot the name of: [A.R.S. § 16-341(B)]

- A political party that fails to meet the qualifications specified for new political parties; or
- Any candidate representing such party; or
- An individual who filed a nomination petition as a candidate in the Primary Election, but failed to qualify as the result of an insufficient number of valid signatures.

## ***Statement of Interest***

Aspiring candidates must submit a Statement of Interest to the City Clerk **prior** to collecting nomination petition signatures. The Statement of Interest includes the candidate's name, party affiliation, and office sought. [A.R.S. § 16-311(H)] Petition signatures collected prior to submission of the Statement of Interest are invalid and subject to challenge pursuant to A.R.S. § 16-351. **NOTE: this law went into effect on August 27, 2019.**

**File: Saturday, March 6 through 5 p.m. Monday, April 5, 2021 [A.R.S. § 16-341(C)]**

- Nomination Paper and Declaration of Qualification and Eligibility [A.R.S. §§ 16-311(A), 16-341(J)]
- Financial Disclosure Statement [A.R.S. §§ 16-311(A), 16-341(J)]
- Nomination Petitions

NOTE: The City Clerk will not accept partial filings, late filings, or supplements to petitions already filed.

## ***Signature Requirements [A.R.S. §§ 16-341(E)(F)]***

The number of valid signatures on the “Nomination Other Than by Primary” (NOP) petition must be at least three percent (3%) of the total number of registered voters who are NOT members of a qualified political party (Democratic, Republican or Libertarian). For Council Member candidates, the total is calculated using the total number of registered voters in the ward for which the candidate is seeking office. According to State law, the number of valid signatures required on NOP petitions will be based on the voter registration figures for the City of Tucson as of January 2, 2021. [A.R.S. § 16-341(F)] The City Clerk will provide signature requirements after that date.

Any registered voter can sign the petition for an NOP candidate, as long as they have not already signed a petition for another candidate running for the same office. For Council Member candidates, the signer must live in, and be a registered voter of, the ward for which the candidate is seeking office. [A.R.S. § 16-341(F)]

## ***4. Write-in Candidates for General Election***

An individual may become a write-in candidate for the General Election unless:

- The individual was defeated in the Primary Election; or [A.R.S. § 16-312(F)(1)]
- The individual filed nomination petitions for the Primary Election but did not collect a sufficient number of valid petition signatures; or [A.R.S. § 16-312(F)(2)]
- The individual filed a nomination petition for Nomination Other Than by Primary but did not collect a sufficient number of valid petition signatures. [A.R.S. § 16-312(F)(4)]

**Filing deadline for General Election: 5 p.m. September 23, 2021**

File the following with the City Clerk:

- Nomination Paper, signed by the candidate, giving the person’s actual residence address or description of place of residence and post office address, age, length of residence in the state, city, ward (if applicable), and date of birth; and [A.R.S. § 16-312 (A)]
- Financial Disclosure Statement; and [A.R.S. § 16-312(C)]
- Declaration [A.R.S. § 16-311(D)]

***CIRCULATING NOMINATION PETITIONS***

Petition forms are available from the City Clerk, and the requirements that such petitions must meet are set forth in A.R.S. §§16-314, 16-315, and 16-321 (for Nomination by Primary), and in A.R.S. §16-341 (for Nomination Other Than by Primary).

***PETITION CIRCULATORS: [A.R.S. §§ 16-315(B), 16-321(D), 16-341(G)]***

- Each circulator must complete and sign the back of each signature sheet.
- A nomination petition for any candidate may be circulated by a person who is not a resident of this state but who is otherwise eligible to register to vote in this state if that person registers as a circulator with the secretary of state before circulating petitions.

***PETITION SIGNERS:***

Qualified electors entitled to sign nomination petitions are those who are qualified to vote for the candidate whose nomination petition they are signing. If signing a petition for council member, the signer must live in the ward for which the candidate is seeking nomination. [A.R.S. §§ 16-321(B), 16-322(A)(9)]

<b>IF CANDIDATE PARTY IS</b>	<b>THEN SIGNER PARTY CAN BE</b>	<b><i>SIGNER PARTY <u>NOT</u> ALLOWED</i></b>
<b>DEMOCRATIC</b>	Democratic Independent Any Party Except Those Not Allowed →	<i>Republican Libertarian</i>
<b>REPUBLICAN</b>	Republican Independent Any Party Except Those Not Allowed →	<i>Democratic Libertarian</i>
<b>LIBERTARIAN</b>	Libertarian Independent Any Party Except Those Not Allowed →	<i>Democratic Republican</i>
<b>NOMINATION OTHER THAN BY PRIMARY</b>	Any Registered Voter (as long as they have not already signed a petition for another candidate running for the same office)	

- An individual may sign only one petition for the same office. If an individual signs more than one nomination petition, the earliest signature will be valid, as determined by the date shown on the petition. If all the signatures are dated the same day, all the signatures are invalid. [**A.R.S. § 16-321(C)**]
- All signers must be at least eighteen (18) years old on the date of signing the petition. [**A.R.S. § 16-101(A)(2)**]